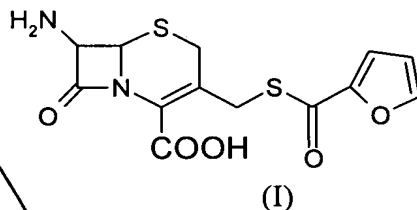


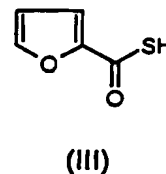
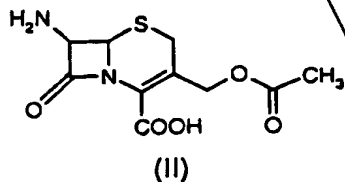
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-15 as follow:

1. (Amended) A process for preparation of 3-[2-(furylcarbonyl) thiomethyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid represented by formula (I),



the said process comprising the step of condensing 7-aminocephalosporanic acid (II) with furyl-2-carbonylthiol (III) in the presence of borontrifluoride at 20-50°C in an organic solvent and isolating the compound of formula (I).



2. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the condensing step is performed at a temperature range of 30°-35°C.
3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture of the condensing step is poured into ice cold water, adjusting the pH of the solution to 3-4 with a base to precipitate the solid.
4. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pH of the solution is in the range of 3.45-3.55.
5. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the solid obtained by precipitation is washed with a mixture of water and organic solvent, drying the solid at a temperature range of 40°-45°C under vacuum.

Q2 6. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein furyl-2-carbonylthiol of formula (III) is used in the form of a solution in which said furyl-2-carbonylthiol was prepared, said solution comprising an organic solvent selected from a group consisting of ethylacetate, methyl acetate, propyl acetate, dichloromethane, toluene, diethyl ether, di-isopropyl ether and mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic solvent used in the condensing step is selected from a group consisting of ethylacetate, methyl acetate, propyl acetate, dichloromethane, toluene, diethyl ether, di-isopropyl ether, acetonitrile, acetic acid and mixtures thereof.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the condensing agent borontrifluoride is used in a gaseous form or its solution in an organic solvent selected from ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, methyl acetate, propyl acetate, dichloromethane, toluene, diethyl ether, di-isopropyl ether and mixtures thereof.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein 3-8 moles of borontrifluoride is used with respect to 7-aminocephalosporanic acid.

10. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the base is selected from a group consisting of ammonium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, or sodium carbonate.

11. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the organic solvent used for washing the final product comprises at least one member selected from a group consisting of acetonitrile, ethylacetate, acetone, methyl acetate, propyl acetate, dichloromethane, toluene, diethyl ether, di-isopropyl ether and mixtures thereof.

---

Please add new claims 12-15 as follow:

Q3 --12. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic solvent used in the condensing step comprises ethyl acetate.--